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JANUARY 9, 1973

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MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: MORNING NEWS SUMMARY

THE WASHINGTON POST

JONATHAN RANDAL DESCRIBES YOUR RECEPTION AS BEING ICY WHEN
YOU WENT TO RESUME TALKS WITH LE DUC THO. THIS SEEMED TO CAST
A PESSIMISTIC ATMOSPHERE ON YOUR RENEWED NEGOTIATIONS. THE
ONLY SURFACE NOTE OF OPTIMISM WAS A NORTH VIETNAMESE ANNOUNCE-
MENT THAT YOU AND THO WOULD MEET AGAIN ON TUESDAY. (A 1)

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COMPLETE TERMINATION OF AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE WAR WAS NOW POSSIBLE BECAUSE SOUTH VIETNAM COULD DEFEND ITSELF. LAIRD INDICATED THAT THE SOLE ISSUE STANDING IN THE WAY OF A FINAL PULLOUT WAS THE SAFE RETURN OF AMERICAN POWS AND AN ACCOUNTING OF MEN MISSING IN ACTION. LAIRD'S VIEWS, ON THE SURFACE AT LEAST, APPEARED TO CONFLICT WITH YOUR COMMENTS MADE ON DEC. 16, WHERE YOU INDICATED OTHER PROBLEMS AS OBSTACLES TO PEACE AND THE POWS WERE NOT A PROBLEM AT THE TIME. (A 1)

WASHINGTON - AN ANNOUNCEMENT IS EXPECTED IN THE NEAR FUTURE THAT RON ZIEGLER WILL BE THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISER ON INFORMATION POLICY. ZIEGLER IS EXPECTED TO BE IN FULL CHARGE NOT ONLY OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS OPERATION BUT TO ABSORB THE RESPONSIBILITIES THAT ARE NOW PUT ON HERB KLEIN'S OFFICE. (A 1)

BONN - THE SOVIET UNION HAS PROTESTED THAT ATTEMPTS TO GIVE WEST BERLIN GREATER VOTING RIGHTS IN THE WEST GERMAN PARLIAMENT WOULD VIOLATE THE FOUR-POWER AGREEMENT ON BERLIN. THIS MARKS THE FIRST INSTANCE SINCE THE BERLIN ACCORD WENT INTO EFFECT LAST JUNE THAT ONE OF THE FOUR SIGNATORY GOVERNMENTS HAD COMPLAINED OF A POTENTIAL VIOLATION. (A 3)

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JOSEPH KRAFT ENTITLES HIS COLUMN TODAY "TWO STRIKING THEMES IN LE DUC THO'S STATEMENT." KRAFT ANALYZES THO'S STATEMENT MADE ON HIS RETURN TO PARIS OVER THE WEEK-END, AND CHARACTERIZES ITS

TO THE STATEMENTS CONSIDERABLE LENGTH AND CAREFUL CRAFTING, IT EMPHASIZES THE DIFFERENCES LEFT OUTSTANDING BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND HANOI SINCE DECEMBER 13 ARE SMALL. SECONDLY, THO EMPHASIZED THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE PRESENT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS.

KRAFT SEES HANOI ONLY WILLING TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT BASED ON THE OCTOBER ACCORD AND MAKE NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES OR RETURN TO THE FIGHTING. KRAFT CONTENDS THAT THE OCTOBER AGREEMENT MET CONSIDERABLE OPPOSITION FROM WEIGHTY FIGURES IN SAIGON AND WASHINGTON. AMBASSADOR BUNKER IS A LEADING PARTISAN OF THIS GROUP ALONG WITH GENERAL HAIG AND JOHN NEGROPONTE ALL WHO BELIEVE THE OCTOBER AGREEMENT WAS TOO LOOSE. PRESIDENT NIXON WAS WON OVER TO THAT VIEW AND RESUMED THE BOMBING OF THE NORTH TO FORCE A CHANGE IN THE TERMS OF THE OCTOBER AGREEMENT.

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THE NEW YORK TIMES

ISRAEL AND SYRIA FOUGHT EXTENSIVE AIR AND ARTILLERY BATTLES YESTERDAY AFTER ISRAELI PLANES STRUCK AT SYRIAN TARGETS IN REPRI-SAL FOR GUERRILLA ATTACKS ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. ISRAELI JETS DOWNED SIX SYRIAN MIG-21 FIGHTERS AND KNOCKED OUT SIX SYRIAN TANKS ALONG THE GOLAN HEIGHTS CEASE-FIRE LINE.

ISRAEL REPORTED SEVEN AIR RAIDS FLOWN THROUGHOUT THE DAY WITH ALL PLANES RETURNING SAFELY. (A 1)

BERNARD | No Objection to Declassification in Part 2010/08/06 : LOC-HAK-248-4-7-5 E

FAILED TO MAKE ANY SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN THEIR LATEST ROUND OF
SALT TALKS, ACCORDING TO "WELL-PLACED ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS."

THE ROUND OF TALKS ENDING IN DECEMBER WERE DEVOTED PRIMARILY
TO THE QUEST FOR A COMPREHENSIVE TREATY PUTTING LIMITS ON ALL
OFFENSIVE STRATEGIC WEAPONS. (A 1)

YOUR PICTURE, AS WELL AS ONE OF LE DUC THO WITH XUAN THUY,
APPEARS ON PAGE 12.

A TIMES EDITORIAL CALLS FOR THE PRESIDENT PERSONALLY TO EXPLAIN
WHAT IS HOLDING UP A FULL AGREEMENT IN THE PEACE TALKS. (P 36)

THE BALTIMORE SUN

YOUR TALKS WITH LE DUC THO ARE COVERED ON THE FRONT PAGE AND
YOUR PICTURE WITH AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN APPEARS ON PAGE 2.

NORTH VIETNAM ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY THAT HUNDREDS OF ANTIAIRCRAFT
UNITS HAVE BEEN FORMED BY THE HOME GUARD AND MILITIA IN THE

HANOI AND HAIPHONG REGIONS. THIS ANNOUNCEMENT SUGGESTS THAT
THE NORTH VIETNAMESE EXPECT NEW AIR ATTACKS NORTH OF THE 20TH
PARALLEL IF THE PEACE TALKS BREAK DOWN AGAIN.

THE ANNOUNC No Objection to Declassification in Part 2010/08/06 : LOC-HAK-248-4-7-5 T

UP IN HAI HUNG AND HA BAC PROVINCES WEST AND NORTHEAST OF HAIPHONG.

(A 1)

THE AUSTRALIAN MARITIME UNION CALLED OFF ITS BOYCOTT OF U.S. SHIPPING TODAY. THE VOTE IN SIDNEY BY UNION MEMBERS WAS UNANIMOUS.

(A 2)

A SUN EDITORIAL REPORTS THAT THE TALKS HAVE RESUMED "BLEAKLY." THO'S UNCHARACTERISTIC TOUGH LANGUAGE COUPLED WITH THE LACK OF YOUR USUAL LIGHTHEARTEDNESS LEND EVIDENCE TO A BLEAK OUTLOOK. WITH THE PRINCIPAL STICKING POINT IN THE TALKS APPEARING TO BE THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF SVN, COUPLED WITH SEC. LAIRD'S STATEMENT YESTERDAY ON THE SUCCESS OF VIETNAMIZATION, "WE CAN HARDLY BE SAID TO BE IN AN IMPRAGNABLE POSTURE IN THE PARIS NEGOTIA-

TIONS." (A 14)

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